

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 041552

USOECN FOR OECD PARIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV, EGIN, UN, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: ECOSOC WORKING GROUP ON CORRUPT PRACTICES

REF: STOCKHOLM 580

1. REFTTEL SUGGESTS THAT SWEDEN IS NOT A MEMBER OF WORKING GROUP AND NOT MUCH INTERESTED IN THE PROJECT. UNDER NEW MANDATE FROM ECOSOC, WORKING GROUP IS NOW OPEN TO MEMBERSHIP BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND WE ARE ADVISED BY UNSEC THAT SWEDEN HAS INDICATED IT WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE GROUP BUT WILL BE REPRESENTED BY A FIRST SECRETARY FROM ITS PERMANENT MISSION.

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2. WE ARE DISAPPOINTED AT LACK OF IMPORTANCE SWEDEN APPARENTLY ATTACHES TO THIS PROJECT, WHICH IS OF HIGH IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES. SWEDEN HAS TAKEN A LEADING ROLE ON INTERNATIONAL ACTION REGARDING MNE'S BOTH IN OECD AND IN UN COMMISSION ON TNCS. MOREOVER, SWEDISH DELEGATION WAS THE FIRST TO RAISE ISSUE OF CORRUPT

PRACTICES IN CONTEXT OF OECD GUIDELINES FOR MNE'S. WE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED STRONG GOS SUPPORT FOR U.S. PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY APPROACH APPROPRIATE GOS OFFICIALS, INCLUDING STEN NIKLASSON (WHO WE KNOW IS NOT DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL, BUT HEADS UN WORKING GROUP ON GENERAL TNC CODE, AND IS KNOWLEDGEABLE ON ISSUE) TO URGE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF GOS REPRESENTATIVE FROM STOCKHOLM IN ECOSOC WORKING GROUP ON CORRUPT PRACTICES AND SUPPORT FOR U.S. PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. WE WOULD PARTICULARLY HOPE TO HAVE BENEFIT OF GOS INFLUENCE WITH HESITANT INDUSTRIAL AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. YOU MAY RECALL PRESIDENT CARTER'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT, AND BROAD ENDORSEMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT BY OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING LAST JUNE. IN ADDITION, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE TO NIKLASSON THAT CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE IN RECENT WORKING GROUP ON CODE OF CONDUCT SHOULD BE HELPFUL FOR WORKING GROUP ON CORRUPT PRACTICES AND THAT A NEGATIVE ATMOSPHERE IN THE LATTER WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO FURTHER PROGRESS ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT. FYI: WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BO LEANDER, SWEDISH REP TO UN TNC CODE WORKING GROUP THROUGH U.S. OECD IN PARIS, DELIVERING SIMILAR MESSAGE. END FYI. VANCE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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